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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 55/208 of 20 December 2000 on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Principal issues addressed in the resolution were the consolidation of the programmes, the building of partnerships, the systematic utilization of UNITAR, the strengthening of the financial basis, the continuity in the management of UNITAR and the reclassifying of the rental rates and maintenance costs.

II. Consolidation of the programmes

2. The programmes have expanded in a controlled manner and for the most part within the categories identified during the restructuring phase. In other words, the conduct of the various programmes approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute is evolving smoothly. The activities have remained steady and sustained. Some 120 different programmes, seminars and workshops have been organized throughout the world each year since 1996. Over 5,500 participants are now benefiting from UNITAR training and capacity-building activities annually.

3. A number of significant programme developments may be singled out. The fellowship programmes in preventive diplomacy, international law, international civil service and international affairs management, organized in Europe and at campuses in New York, have largely met the expectations of the participants. The number of nominations, however, greatly exceeds the places available.

4. In resolution 53/195 of 15 December 1998, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna. No additional facilities have been offered to UNITAR so far, but training programmes in favour of diplomats accredited to the United Nations offices at Nairobi and Vienna have been organized within existing resources. It may not be possible to maintain these activities if voluntary contributions to the UNITAR General Fund do not increase. In its resolution 55/208, the General Assembly encouraged the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs. This cannot be considered by the Board of Trustees unless the General Fund is substantially strengthened, even though these programmes are very cost-effective. UNITAR will face increasing difficulties in answering specific requests from Member States to design and

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conduct programmes for which the costs are covered by the General Fund should donor countries not respond positively to the numerous and recurring calls from the General Assembly to resume or increase their contributions.

5. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships has agreed to fund a programme on training peacekeepers on the special needs of women and children in conflict. It is expected that bilateral donors will join the initiative.

6. Grants have been received from a multilateral source for the development of the programme on law and cyberspace (likely also to be funded by the World Bank in the future). The issue of regulatory frameworks has become central to the development of the Internet. National regulatory and fiscal frameworks play an essential role in the development of infrastructures, the creativity of business, the use of new media by associations and schools, etc. For the past six years, UNITAR has been carrying out training in communication technologies, focusing in particular on technical aspects, as well as on how these technologies can be put at the service of society. During this time UNITAR has received an increasing number of requests for training on legal, economic and social aspects of the Internet, including specific appeals from countries wishing to carry out strategic studies on information and communication technologies to ensure that legal professionals, in particular regulators, have a good mastery of questions raised by the Internet, multimedia and telecommunications and to participate more actively in the drawing up of new international legislations, above all within the framework of the international organizations.

7. In 2001, the International Migration Policy Programme, drawing on the expertise of its co-implementing partners and other international and regional entities, will have organized three activities providing capacity-building in all aspects of migration policy and management for senior government officials and strengthening inter-State cooperation and dialogue to better address contemporary migration challenges. These activities include: an international migration policy seminar for the Caribbean region at Kingston in May; follow-up consultations for Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States at Istanbul in June; and an international migration policy seminar for West Africa scheduled for Dakar in December. Reference documents related to these events, including summary conclusions and recommendations, are available from unimp@gve.ch.

8. At the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNITAR has organized two training seminars for local journalists in the professional use of the Internet, at Kinshasa and Goma. The two main competing parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo much appreciated the course. It may be followed by other initiatives. It is worth noting that this two-week course was the first of the quick impact projects decided by the Security Council to be implemented.

9. As a follow-up to the high-level meeting on partnership between European regions and the United Nations for post-conflict rehabilitation, with particular emphasis on the Balkans and a special focus on Kosovo, UNITAR was requested by the United Nations Development Programme to undertake a pilot capacity-building project for two Kosovo municipalities in the field of municipal administration and planning thanks to the computerization of public services. This project is run with municipalities through the decentralized cooperation concept. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNDP and UNITAR are jointly organizing a round table on training at Pristina, addressed to all concerned stakeholders. The undertaking is expected to permit the establishment of a clear picture of training needs in Kosovo and the preparation of a concrete training action plan with a precise catalogue of training needs, as well as ongoing and planned training activities.

10. Because of the difficulties encountered during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at The Hague, the UNITAR programme on climate change has been beset with uncertainty for a while. UNITAR has just concluded with UNDP (and with the concurrence of the Executive Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) an agreement for the design and conduct of an important programme financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), on building human and institutional capacities to address climate change issues in least developed countries. This programme will soon be operational in 46 countries.

11. Since late 1998, the issue of dialogue among civilizations has arrived on the agenda of the United Nations. The General Assembly has adopted three resolutions on this subject (resolutions 53/22, 54/113 and 55/23), in which Member States agreed to name the year 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. These documents are, by their nature, very general and all-encompassing, since the dialogue among civilizations is aimed at participating in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. They call upon Governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, to consider contributing to the Trust Fund to promote dialogue among civilizations. This broad basis allows for many possible concrete action-oriented initiatives to help foster recognition and understanding. Within this framework, UNITAR has launched training-oriented research on the dialogue among civilizations as a possible way to address the issue of human security. Various topics are being explored, such as sustainable development, migration, use of natural resources, dispute resolution and conflict prevention and human rights. Other topics that may be considered include: transparency and accountability — responsibility before sovereignty of States; how to approach "good governance" — social, political, cultural and legal (institutional) aspects; fighting economic and social marginalization or exclusion; increasing the chances of the most vulnerable through primary health care and fighting infectious disease (including HIV/AIDS); and better protection for civilians in international and internal armed conflicts.

12. Under the programme on international affairs management, the UNDP office in Azerbaijan has requested that a high-level programme be organized on sustainable human development and the UNDP office in Malawi has requested that a programme be prepared on efficient management of international meetings. Among the many new projects, a recent one, sponsored by the International Olympic Committee, on promoting human development through sport, deserves, in particular, to be mentioned. This project falls under a new initiative launched by the Secretary-General in February 2001 through the nomination of a Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace with the goal of creating stronger links between the United Nations and the world of sport.

13. Training and capacity-building programmes in chemicals and waste management provide support to developing countries and countries in economic transition in their efforts to ensure that dangerous chemicals and waste are handled safely without causing harm to human health and the environment. New initiatives include:

(a) The UNITAR/Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) programme to assist countries in developing and sustaining integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals has the objective to assist interested countries with the establishment of a sustained and formalized national platform through which integrated and coordinated action related to the safe management of chemicals can be ensured. Three countries — Ecuador, Senegal and Sri Lanka — are obtaining support from UNITAR for a period of 18 months;

(b) A thematic workshop on strengthening national capacities for chemical analysis and monitoring for the sound management of chemicals was organized in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), to be held at The Hague. The main objective of the workshop is to bring together developing countries, countries with economies in transition, developed countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop sustainable strategies for countries to strengthen their capacities for chemical analysis and monitoring for the sound management of chemicals, while recognizing national circumstances and priorities;

(c) A new training and capacity-building programme, undertaken in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other IOMC partner organizations, to assist countries to develop and implement chemical hazard communication and action plans of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Two-year pilot country projects are under way in Sri Lanka and Zambia and are under development in a number of developing countries, with possible expansion to countries with economies in transition.

14. Training and capacity-building in the legal aspects of debt, financial management and negotiation is being continued for the English-speaking countries in Africa and for Viet Nam. The latest positive development has been the expansion of the programme into French-speaking countries in Africa. UNITAR and Pôle-Dette (the training arm of two West and Central African Regional Banks, i.e. Banque des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (BEAC) and the Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO)) have signed an aide-mémoire detailing joint training and capacity-building activities for Central and West African nations, mainly French-speaking. As part of this agreement, UNITAR will assist Pôle-Dette in conducting an assessment of needs in relation to training in the legal aspects of debt and financial management and a series of regional seminars. This joint training programme will cater to 14 CFA franc countries, as well as two additional French-speaking countries. Parallel to its training activities, the programme continues its publications as part of its document series. Additionally, a series of publications on best practices has also been introduced. All publications and documents as well as information on the latest activities and developments have been posted on a new web site for the debt and financial management programme (www.unitar.org/dfm). This web site is being tailored as a "legal and financial resource centre" for African government officials. The hallmark of this programme has been its partnership with African regional training institutes. Programme activities are being conducted with five such institutes in East, West and southern Africa leading to cost-sharing and complementarity.

15. The training programme on the application of environmental law continues to evolve satisfactorily. Positive new developments have been materializing in the recent past: organization of regional and national seminars, parallel to the distribution of the correspondence courses, as well as fully-fledged capacity-building programmes in French-speaking Africa. The first seminar, for 10 West African countries, will take place at La Rochelle, France, in the first week of October. The second one will take place at Rabat in November. New contacts have been established with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development.

16. The pilot phase of the UNITAR Hiroshima Programmes has begun. A first workshop was to be held in October 2001 on the management and conservation of World Heritage Sites: law, policy and administrative aspects. An international conference on human security: humans, sea and environment will be held in February 2002. Simultaneously, various options are being considered for the strengthening and development of a sustainable training and capacity-building programme, addressed to professionals from Asian and Pacific countries.

17. The programme in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy includes a number of activities for a range of target audiences, as follows:

(a) The UNITAR-International Peace Academy (IPA) Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, which is the longest running and is entering its ninth year. The programme is held on an annual basis in Austria and provides advanced training in conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation to middle and senior-level United Nations staff, diplomats and personnel from regional organizations;

(b) Two regional training programmes to enhance conflict prevention and peace-building in Africa, which focus specifically on the pressing need to improve the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa and are carried out annually. One offers advanced training to senior and middle level staff from African ministries of foreign affairs and defence, as well as staff from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working in this area. The other focuses specifically on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and is held in cooperation with the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre at Harare;

(c) Two annual training programmes which have been developed for representatives of minority and indigenous groups. The training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peace-building capacities of minority and indigenous peoples' representatives is held each year at Geneva at the time of the annual meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. A regional training programme will also be held in the future and will rotate between regions;

(d) The programme for briefing and debriefing special and personal representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which is a combined research and training programme designed to preserve

the valuable lessons from United Nations peace operations. The programme involves:

(i) The debriefing of past and current special and personal representatives and envoys through in-depth interviews;

(ii) The preparation of a handbook for special representatives of the Secretary-General, consisting of a well-organized summary of lessons learned and recommendations from these interviews;

(iii) A set of videos and digital videodiscs (DVDs) to accompany the handbook;

(iv) An annual seminar for special representatives of the Secretary-General and senior United Nations staff to provide a forum to share experiences and lessons learned and to promote dialogue; and

(v) A more systematic briefing programme based on recommendations of special representatives.

The handbook, videos and DVD will form part of the briefing programme for new special representatives. All of these activities are being carried out in close cooperation with the senior staff in relevant departments. Work on the interviews, the handbook, videos and DVD is well under way and will be finalized in October 2002. The first seminar was held in March 2001 and the second is being planned for May 2002.

18. The conduct of research for, on and around training is extending quite rapidly, in particular for the identification and formulation of new "bottom-up" methodologies demanding the direct and active participation of individuals, institutions and State recipients.

19. *Online training courses*. Relying on its acquired knowledge and experience of past regional training in the legal aspects of debt and financial management and with a view to training more officials at an optimal cost, UNITAR is in the process of developing an online platform for training government officials from Africa in selected legal aspects of debt, financial management and negotiation. A series of six online courses will be developed in three years. A provisional structure of the course has been designed and uploaded onto the UNITAR debt management web site (www.unitar.org/dfm). Additionally, previously developed UNITAR copyright materials have been uploaded. UNITAR is also testing a "discussion board" platform, which will be used for online communication between participants, experts and UNITAR. UNITAR is in the process of developing a five-day online course based principally on existing materials. At the end of 2001, the environmental law programme will develop an online version of the correspondence instruction course in environmental law. The project will start with the French language. The course will include 10 modules and will be enriched by tutors.

20. Several international organizations, United Nations agencies, African organizations and bilateral agencies have been very active over the past four years in supporting African countries in a first phase of environmental information systems projects using new information and communication technologies. These projects are aimed at improving the exchange of and the access to data and information related to the environment at large (including agriculture, forestry and water) and at promoting an increased participatory process, governance and decision-making in the field of environment. Encouraged by the good results obtained so far, a number of African countries and subregions have asked for an extension of this programme, as follows:

(a) Towards other multilateral environmental treaty, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (in Benin, Tunisia, Uganda), the Convention on Biological Diversity (in Benin, Tunisia, Uganda), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) (in Benin and Uganda) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (in Benin and Senegal);

(b) A geographical extension including Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mauritania within the Arab Maghreb Union, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea and the Niger within the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as Central African and southern African countries.

III. Building of partnerships

21. In resolution 55/208, the General Assembly requested the Board of Trustees of UNITAR to intensify its efforts to attract experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute, and stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues. UNITAR has come a long way in this direction in the recent past. Persons from countries in transition (Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan) have been recruited as resource persons. Experts from the three major developing regions have also been hired for training activities both in developing countries and in countries in transition. The most illustrative developments are arising from the Institute's new training methodology of associating individuals and institutions from the various concerned regions in the training activities. Over half the resource persons in the debt and financial management training programme are from Africa. A majority of the resource persons in the training programme on peacemaking and preventive diplomacy come from the targeted regions. UNITAR activities are increasingly country driven and country executed. It may be assumed that for every five local consultants, UNITAR provides one external expert who, however, often also originates from a developing country. Within the concept of South-South twinning, government officials from a former project country are invited to share lessons learned in another, new project country. The climate change programme is another area where UNITAR has given priority to experts, research centres and non-governmental organizations based in developing countries. The most recent survey, produced by UNITAR, on the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was conducted exclusively in collaboration with five regional investigating institutions from developing countries (Colombia, Jordan, Senegal, South Africa and Sri Lanka). Moreover, UNITAR is currently reviewing its programme with a view to completely decentralizing the training components. In full consistency with draft decisions on capacity-building for climate change made at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNITAR is proposing to facilitate the establishment or reinforcing the existing university or training centres. The Secretary-General thus considers that the recruitment by UNITAR of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is no longer at issue.

22. The UNITAR network of partners is also being consolidated. Almost all the ongoing programmes are designed and conducted in conjunction with one or more institutions, within and outside the United Nations system. Over the last few months, several high-level meetings were held or correspondence was exchanged between the Executive Director of UNITAR and various heads of departments or programmes, including:

(a) The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on cooperation in peacekeeping training;

(b) The Administrator of UNDP, to consider joint ventures in capacity-building in war-torn societies and to resume cooperation in the field of environmental training, in particular climate change;

(c) The Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), to identify ways in which UNOPS could use UNITAR services. Meetings are being arranged among UNOPS portfolio managers and UNITAR programme coordinators in Geneva, New York and Abidjan. Each programme for which UNITAR can supply assistance will be taken into consideration;

(d) The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) who showed keen interest in developing cooperation with UNITAR, in particular in the field of population and migration training;

(e) The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, for the conduct of research and reflection on possible methodologies for introducing gender mainstreaming in UNITAR training and capacity-building programmes;

(f) The Executive Director of the United Nations Foundation for International Partnerships and the Senior Vice-President of the United Nations Foundation, to consider how UNITAR could better serve these institutions;

(g) Several heads of agencies or departments, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Administrator of UNDP, the heads of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in the context of the programme on peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, as well as with the Chairman of GEF and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, for programmes that will be mentioned later.

23. Partnerships within the Organization are being strengthened. Such cooperation is also developing system-wide and is being reinforced with training and research institutions at the regional and country levels, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. By way of example, the collaboration between UNITAR and the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa at Harare deserves to be mentioned. Previous collaboration has been primarily linked to joint training activities. A new agreement between the institutes enlarges the scope of collaboration to a considerable degree and beyond just training. The Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute and UNITAR recognize a commonality of purpose, methodology and programmes that exists within the debt management efforts of the two institutes. Specific areas of mutual benefit and complementarities in debt management (both in training and in capacity-building) have been identified, as follows: regional training, use of new information technologies, capacity-building and information sharing.

IV. Systematic utilization of the Institute and new departments

24. Significant progress has been made in the systematic utilization of UNITAR. This may be interpreted as a concrete recognition of the positive actions conducted by the Institute during its restructuring phase. Requests for cooperation have been received from GEF, the executive secretariats of the three conventions born of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

25. As a follow-up to a decision made by the GEF Council on 19 May 2001, the GEF secretariat requested UNITAR to assist in preparing a guide for self-assessment of country capacity needs for global environmental management. GEF support for the preparation of national capacity self-assessments is pursuant to the decision of the GEF Council to request the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the implementing agencies and executing agencies, to initiate processes so that the self-assessment of capacity-building needs can begin immediately in countries that request such assistance. The overall aim of GEF support for the national capacity self-assessment is to provide countries with the opportunity to take the lead in articulating their own capacity needs and priorities with respect to the global environment, taking into account the three global conventions on biological diversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation.

26. In preparing the guide, UNITAR brought in its long-standing experience and expertise in assisting countries to strengthen national multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity in various environmental domains, including support for self-assessments of needs. In particular, the Institute's national profile support programmes, which comprise country-based guidance, training and technical support to assist countries in assessing their existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructures for certain environmental management issues (e.g., chemicals management) is of particular relevance to the process of national capacity self-assessment.

27. Throughout the drafting of the guide, the GEF secretariat and UNITAR made use of expertise available through GEF implementing and executing agencies, in particular UNDP, as well as the convention secretariats. In addition, important input was provided by developing country experts in a peer review workshop organized by GEF in cooperation with UNITAR in September 2001. The guide is made available to interested countries as the basis for initiation of country projects on national capacity self-assessment.

28. In a related development, upon a request from the secretariats of the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification, UNITAR has initiated informal discussions to explore how existing training and capacity activities supported by the four organizations may be strengthened with a view to

developing integrated approaches for the implementation of the provisions of the three conventions. These discussions are closely linked to the process initiated by GEF to support national capacity self-assessments.

29. The second methodological research in the same vein is being conducted and touches upon specific evaluation needs. Evaluation is a widely recognized tool to measure effectiveness and to help define ways of increasing effectiveness. However, it does not often live up to expectations of effort and cost. In many cases, findings and recommendations remain a part of the report and never find their way into the culture, decisions, actions of the organizations, activities, programmes and projects concerned. It is difficult for sponsors, donors or oversight organizations to determine whether or not a grant is having the appropriate or desired result. The capacity to provide evaluation services is a natural extension of the research and training, information exchange and networking functions. The evaluation services, which can range from advice on all or part of the evaluation cycle, to actually carrying out an evaluation, build upon the knowledge, resources and partnerships inherent to these functions. By its nature and through its experience, UNITAR may have a role to play in this domain at the service of the United Nations and its Member States.

30. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg in 2002, will address issues in key sectors of the environment. As part of the preparations for the conference, the widest cross-section of civil society (ranging from business and industry to scientists, academics, the media, indigenous and young people, as well as trade unions and women's groups) are being encouraged to take part in the evaluation process that is now being launched in every country, in addition to the activities of the multilateral organizations. In agreement with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNITAR is preparing a special programme for local authorities on their role in meeting the objectives of sustainable development. Five regional preparatory pre-Summit workshops will be organized from December 2001 to July 2002. A report will be prepared for the Summit, with the aim of proposing:

(a) The reinforcement and recognition of the roles of local authorities in United Nations sustainable development objectives;

(b) An international capacity-building and training programme in the field of sustainable development for local authorities based on the concept of decentralized cooperation.

31. ITU, as the lead agency in the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in 2003, has requested UNITAR to provide the least developed countries with the most recent knowledge and insights on strategies and issues related to the development of information and communication technologies and support them in their efforts to prepare for the Summit. The objective of this initiative is to enhance the ability of the least developed countries to express their needs as far as the role that information technology can play in alleviating poverty, supporting good governance and protecting human rights, as well as promoting innovation and enterprise as part of the process of achieving sustainable social, economic and political development. The project should enable all the key stakeholders in these countries, Governments, civil society and businesses, to fully assess the added value that their participation in the Summit can provide. It will also seek to enhance their capacities to more adequately negotiate their interests during proceedings and put forward relevant proposals. This project will ultimately seek to enable these countries to suggest appropriate follow-up programmes and articulate a plan of action and appropriate strategies, to be included in the recommendations of the Summit.

V. Strengthening of the financial basis

32. Owing to a very stringent management of funds over the past few years, the financial situation of UNITAR has become more positive. It remains fragile, however, because of the continued low level of non-earmarked voluntary contributions. These contributions are crucial if the Institute is to answer the numerous and often very urgent requests for training and capacity-building in developing countries and countries in transition. The insufficiency of voluntary contributions makes it difficult to maintain training programmes at Vienna and Nairobi and impossible to inaugurate new programmes in other cities hosting United Nations regional commissions, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/208.

33. The contributions to the special purpose grants remain satisfactory.

34. In its resolution 55/208, the General Assembly, in three specific appeals to Member States: (a) renewed its appeal to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that had not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urged the States that had interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute; (b) called upon developed countries, which are increasingly participating in the training programmes conducted in New York and Geneva, to make contributions or consider increasing their contributions to the General Fund; and (c) encouraged the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and increasing the contributions made to the General Fund.

35. Unfortunately, it should be noted that the response of Member States has been disappointing. The successful restructuring of UNITAR has been praised and the relevance of its programmes underlined, but the voluntary contributions to the General Fund remain low. The Secretary-General sincerely hopes that the Member States, in particular the industrialized countries that are benefiting from UNITAR activities, will consider increasing or resuming their contributions without delay.

VI. Continuity in the management of the Institute

36. In resolution 55/208, the General Assembly welcomed the decisions taken so far by the Secretary-General to ensure continuity in the management of the Institute and to consider the proper grade for the post of Executive Director; and noted with appreciation the services rendered by the Executive Director of the Institute in the light of the challenges emanating from the increased responsibilities encountered by his office.

37. With the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the Secretary-General had decided to upgrade the post of the Executive Director to the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

VII. Reclassifying the rental rates and maintenance costs

38. In resolution 55/208, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider reclassifying the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to the Institute with a view to alleviating its current financial difficulties, which were aggravated by the current practice of charging commercial rates, taking into account that other organizations affiliated with the United Nations enjoyed such privileges.

39. This issue was raised by UNITAR's Board of Trustees, in consideration of the fact that UNITAR is charged rental and maintenance costs while serving the Organization free of charge, in particular through the training of diplomats and government officials from Member States.

40. It is recalled that in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the General Assembly decided that the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[1] should be implemented by the Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations. One of the recommendations, (recommendation 36) was that Member States and other users occupying office space on United Nations premises should pay rent based on commercial rates. It was the understanding of the Secretary-General that the term "other users" was clearly intended to refer to any bodies or activities funded outside the regular budget of the United Nations, so as to ensure that the regular budget did not bear costs that should be borne by extrabudgetary resources. UNITAR fell under the term "other users". In accordance with the procedure established to conform to recommendation 36, the rental and maintenance rates charged by the United Nations to entities occupying space in United Nations buildings were based on the commercial rates that the United Nations was charged. The Secretary-General was thus not in a position to "reclassify" the rates charged to UNITAR for rent and maintenance costs unless the General Assembly decided to make an express exception to its resolution 41/213 and in regard to recommendation 36.

41. Moreover, if the part of the costs currently paid by UNITAR in connection with rent and maintenance is to be taken over by the United Nations, the General

Assembly should also decide to amend Article VIII, paragraph 13 of the Statute of UNITAR, which states:

> **"The general administrative, personnel and financial services of the United Nations shall be utilized by the Institute on conditions determined in consultation between the Secretary-General and the Executive Director, it being understood that no extra cost to the regular budget of the United Nations is to be incurred."**

It is suggested that the following words be added at the end of the paragraph: "without the express approval of the General Assembly".

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).